

The news in this publication is released for the press on the date indicated below.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

Published weekly by the
University of North Carolina
for its Bureau of Extension.

JANUARY 12, 1916

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. II, NO. 7

Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, J. G. deR. Hamilton, L. R. Wilson, L. A. Williams, R. H. Thornton, G. M. McKie. Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1914, at the postoffice at Chapel Hill, N. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

FILE NUMBERS

The first volume of the University News Letter consisted of 51 issues. The second volume and all succeeding volumes will consist of 50 numbers. That is to say, hereafter the annual holiday of the editors will be two weeks during the Christmas and New Year season.

Readers interested in University News Letter files will please note that the issue of this date is number 7, and follows number 6 issued on Dec. 22, 1915.

WHAT COLLEGE PROFESSORS HAVE

Painters have painter's colic, plumbers have lead poisoning, and college professors have—the academic mind.—W. F. Foster, President of Reed College, in The Nation.

PIG AND POULTRY CLUBS

The Pig Club enrollment in North Carolina in 1915 was 768, and the Poultry Clubs numbered 1056 members.

Beef and dairy industries develop slowly anywhere; but the meat deficit in a farm community can be easily and promptly wiped out by a proper attention to pigs and poultry. Hence the wisdom of pig and poultry clubs in the South.

North Carolina makes a capital beginning in club work of this kind.

SEEMS DOOMED

The secular press of the State has discovered that the Country Church is in peril.

The authorities of the various denominations are beginning an earnest, active study of the problem—especially in the North and West.

The country church in certain localities seems doomed and is slowly disintegrating, and the leaders of church work are trying to devise some remedy for the evil that is coming upon us, says The Presbyterian Standard in a recent issue. These certain localities are the regions of excessive farm tenancy and absentee landlordism—in this and every other state.

If you are interested write to Dr. S. L. Morris, Executive Secretary of Presbyterian Committee on Home Missions, Hurt Building, Atlanta, for his pamphlet on the Country Church in the South; or to E. C. Branson, University of North Carolina, for his pamphlet on the Country Church: a Country-Life Defense. The first will cost you five cents, the last is free of charge.

COUNTRY HOME IMPROVEMENT

Nearly 400 county agents are at work with the farm women in 15 Southern States—some forty under Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon in North Carolina.

These agents are not devoting themselves to canning alone. They are conducting demonstrations in cooking, improved sanitary conditions, winter gardening, poultry work, and home dairying. They are giving attention to increased conveniences, comforts and luxuries in country homes.

These workers steadily move forward in ideals. For instance, a Virginia League of farm women has just been having lessons in fireless cookers, scrubbing chariots, milk coolers, iceless refrigerators, shower baths, roller tray wagons, folding ironing boards and the like—all home-made at a trifling expense.

The cityward drift of country populations will never stop until country homes, country schools, country churches and country social life are efficient and attractive, no matter how prosperous farm life may be. Nine times out of ten it is a dissatisfied wife and mother who moves the family into town.

WE LIVE LONGER

For several centuries the length of human life has been increasing. Better living conditions have prevented many of the needless deaths of infants, children and young adults.

In recent years the gain in this country has been about 15 years per century. In Prussia the rate of gain has been twenty-seven years.

The reason for this difference lies in the fact that Prussia has utilized modern

knowledge of sanitation and has vested her sanitary officers with authority to make and enforce sanitary laws.

CARE OF EMPLOYEES

There is a hopeful outlook for improved sanitation in the attempt of some industrial organizations to establish a physical examination of all their employees. The railroads were the first to undertake this work, but while eliminating the unfit they have made no effort toward their physical rejuvenation.

The Goodrich Rubber Company employs whole-time dentists to examine and care for the teeth of its employees. The general supervision of sickness among the employees of the Ford Company has reduced absenteeism and has so far increased efficiency as to yield a handsome profit to the Company—not to mention the benefits derived by the workmen.

The Carrs have employed a nurse to wait upon the necessities of their mill operatives in Carrboro; and the Cone Manufacturing Company in Greensboro can boast of one of the most sanitary mill villages in the State if not in the South, says Dr. C. W. Stiles of the Federal Health Service.

AMAZING PROGRESS

A most remarkable stride toward economic freedom in the farm regions of North Carolina this year is shown in the Federal crop report given to the press on December 16. The significance of this report appears when the totals are compared with crops of 1909 as found in the 13th Census.

We have raised this year not less but more cotton and tobacco than we raised six years ago; but at the same time we have nearly doubled our corn and hay crops, more than doubled our yield of rye, and nearly trebled our yield of wheat and oats during this interval. We have also raised more rice, buckwheat, and potatoes.

We have wheat and hay enough for home consumption, and we are approaching sufficiency in our corn and potato crops. We will this year hold down in North Carolina a large part of the \$119,000,000 that went out of the State in 1910 to swell the bank accounts of the bread-and-meat farmers of the Middle West.

No farm civilization can achieve permanent prosperity that is not self-financing; and no farm community can be self-financing that is not self-feeding.

Nineteen fifteen is a remarkable year in North Carolina Agriculture.

OUR SIX-YEAR CROP INCREASES

North Carolina 1915 Crops 6-Yr. Increases	
Corn, bushels,	64,050,000 88 per cent
Wheat, bu.	10,358,000 161 per cent
Oats, bushels,	8,050,000 190 per cent
Rye, bushels,	575,000 105 per cent
Buckwheat, bu.	175,000 21 per cent
Rice, bushels,	4,000 667 per cent
Potatoes, bushels,	3,150,000 32 per cent
Sweet pota's, bu.	8,925,000 5 per cent
Hay, tons,	648,000 75 per cent
Tobacco, lbs.	198,400,000 42 per cent
Cotton, bales,	708,000 5 per cent

WAR-TIME DEMANDS ON OUR FARMERS

A comparison of exports during the year ending June 30, 1915 with those of the year before shows increases as follows:

Horses and mules increase from \$4,000,000 to \$77,000,000; meat and dairy products, from \$146,000,000 to \$220,000,000; wheat and wheat flour, from \$142,000,000 to \$428,000,000; corn and corn meal, from \$7,000,000 to \$39,000,000; oats, from \$1,000,000 to \$57,000,000; barley, from \$4,000,000 to \$18,000,000.

The wheat farmers produced the largest wheat crop in the history of the nation, and they received an average of 22 cents a bushel more than the year before—some \$196,000,000 more, all told. Oats averaged a cent more per bushel; and barley two cents a bushel more; but the farmers received slightly less for their corn than in 1913, less for their cattle and hogs, 4.6 per cent less for their horses and mules, and \$283,000,000 less for their cotton.

All told, the American farmer gets less this year than last out of the largest volume of farm wealth ever created in the history of this country.

BROADER GROUND FOR BANKERS

George A. Holderness, Tarrboro

In the last few years the feeling that one should not live to himself alone, that one owes an equal duty to his fellow men, has developed rapidly, and if there were no other reason this would be sufficient for the average banker. Not only can he have a satisfied conscience in performing his duty; the same time he can aid in the upbuilding of his bank.

The mere fact of loaning money to some individual farmer is only an incident in the aid and development of the agriculture of the state.

There is a broader ground the bankers must occupy. They must get solidly behind the movement to increase the productivity of the soil, and to better the condition of the farmer. The national government and the state government are accomplishing wonders in this line and the bankers should give this movement active co-operation. The farmer in your community will believe much more readily the information you give him than that he gathers from the talk of some government expert.

AGAIN AHEAD IN COTTON PRODUCTION

North Carolina again leads the cotton belt states in the per acre production of cotton, 1914 crop. The first three states in the following list do not raise enough cotton to figure in this comparison. Robeson county, for instance, raises nearly as much cotton in an average year as the whole state of Missouri. Virginia raised only 25,000 bales all told in 1914; and California not much more.

Rank	State	Per Acre Yields
1	California	499 lbs.
2	Missouri	288
3	Virginia	260
4	North Carolina	248
5	South Carolina	208
6	Tennessee	202
7	Mississippi	180
8	Arkansas	176
8	Oklahoma	176
10	Georgia	168
11	Louisiana	159
12	Alabama	148
13	Texas	145
14	Florida	112

MAKING HISTORY IN DURHAM COUNTY

The Co-operative Credit Union organized by a little group of farmers at Lowe's Grove schoolhouse in Durham county the other day is the first organization of this sort in North Carolina under our new law. The organizers were aided by Mr. John Sprunt Hill, the banker-friend of the farmers, Mr. W. R. Camp, the State Superintendent of Co-operative Enterprise, and Mr. J. L. Morehead, the Durham lawyer.

Outside the credit unions among the Jewish farmers of the Northern States this is the first co-operative credit society formed among the farmers of the whole United States. We speak here of co-operative not joint stock associations, and short-time credit for personal loans upon character as a collateral, not co-operative societies for securing loans on land mortgages.

It is possible that the little group of Durham county farmers may go down in history with fame like that of the co-operating weavers in Toad Lane, Rochdale, England, whose \$140 began a business in 1844 that now amounts to \$600,000,000 a year in England alone.

Fifteen million co-operating farmers in Europe do a credit business among themselves that amounts to some seven billion dollars a year. To be sure, it has taken them 65 years in which to accomplish this wonderful result; and substantial results cannot be achieved in America in any brief space of time.

But the farmers of America must begin; and the beginning has been made in North Carolina. It is a start toward the organizing of thrift, out of which arise

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO 57

TEACHING AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS

People used to look wise and declare with strong confidence that no one could teach an old dog a new trick. This was the ground of their belief that when a man was grown old he became

Too Old to Learn Books

In fact, in the olden days, they even went so far as to say of a man who had graduated from a college that he had

Finished His Education

But now we know by experience that a man never gets too old to learn books and that he never finishes his education until death, or at least he should never finish his education so long as he lives. That grown people

Can Be Taught

is a fact that has been abundantly proven in recent years, and especially

Here in North Carolina

during last November when hundreds of illiterates gathered into our schoolhouses as pupils in the Moonlight Schools, and in that one short month

Lifted Themselves

out of the weakness and humiliation of illiteracy into the power and pride of reading and writing their mother tongue. The Moonlight School has taught us that old people, men and women up around their three score years and ten, are

Not Too Old to Learn

to read and write, and the Moonlight School has taught us something else be-

sides. In a group of Moonlight Schools the illiterates were not the only pupils.

Grown-Up Men and Women

in numbers from 25 to 60, would attend each of these schools and ask for

Instruction in Other Subjects

in the public school course, especially English grammar, arithmetic, and geography, history, the last two being especially popular with these people who could read and write but little. Luckily teachers were plentiful and the instruction so unexpectedly asked for was gladly given to large classes of men and women who were anxious to learn more about the elementary principles of arithmetic and the great events of state and national history.

Such Great Interest

was shown by these men and women that their Moonlight School is to be followed by weekly neighborhood meetings to be held in the schoolhouse. At these meetings there will be short lessons and talks on popular topics in history and current events, elementary practical arithmetic, domestic science, and every day problems on the farm. In this way the people will learn many things of

Value and General Information

about their country, their home work, and their business problems. The old men and women are not only going to learn the new tricks of today but they are already learning them. Let's keep the Moonlight School idea alive and by lecture and well-directed suggestions teach the people as long as they will come out to be taught.

the capital, collateral, and character that credit demands.

Credit is financial and moral trustworthiness. It is ability and willingness to pay what is due. Agencies beyond the farmers can furnish the money; but farmers alone can establish the credit they need. Dr. Henry Wallace, whose disinterested friendship for the farmer nobody doubts, has been saying these things long enough to challenge widespread attention among the farmers of the entire country.

NEARLY EVERYBODY VOLUNTEERED

Only three counties have smaller illiteracy ratios among the whites ten years old and over, and only four counties make a better showing than Pasquotank in the literacy of white voters, said Hon. W. M. Hinton, the Superintendent of Schools in an eloquent address the other day at the Community Service Rally in Elizabeth City.

We have much to be thankful for, he added, but nothing to be proud of.

The large audience of town and country people was also addressed by Mr. J. K. Wilson, Dr. B. C. Henning, Prof. Spragins, Superintendent of the city schools, Dr. R. L. Kendrick, E. C. Branson of the University faculty, and Congressman John H. Small.

Mrs. J. G. Fearing read the Governor's proclamation; Mrs. C. W. Melick, Hon. E. Y. Joyner's letter, and Superintendent Hinton made the appeal for volunteer teachers in the Moonlight Schools. The audience arose almost en masse. These schools will open in early January in the city and the country districts of the county.

A beautiful little capital city and a great people down in Pasquotank! The dinner served by the city people in Cramer Hall to the country visitors was abundant, and the hospitality hearty and wholesome.

USEFUL WEEKLY PAPERS

The special community service edition of The Independent on December 9th was unique. It side-stepped the usual parade of community progress, and the circus bill-poster English that is so common in special editions of the home newspapers. Instead it was filled with studies of local problems, and plans for progress by thoughtful home folks. The edition was meant to stimulate interest in the approaching Community Service Rally in

Elizabeth City, and it succeeded most admirably. Such special editions ought to be duplicated many times over in North Carolina in the days to come.

The Advance has been carrying the full text of the addresses made upon Community Service Day, and repeating some of them a second time for its readers. If the county builds common schools as wisely as Superintendent Hinton dreams, and the city catches up with the visions of Superintendent Spragins, Pasquotank will be a little paradise in the Albemarle country.

What wonderful agencies of progress the weekly papers are! And how poor is the community with no weekly paper or a poor weekly paper!

OUR CAROLINA FISHER FOLK

Dare county, North Carolina, is inhabited by a seafaring people, some 5,000 all told in the census year. They are settled in small fishing colonies along the banks from Kitty Hawk to Hatteras Inlet for 95 miles; on Roanoke Island mainly, and more sparsely on the mainland portion of the county.

Fertile soils are abundant. The trucking advantages are wonderful. When the Inland Water Way from Norfolk to Morehead City is completed and regular traffic is established, Currituck, Dare, Tyrell, Hyde, Pamlico, Beaufort, and Carteret will enter upon a new era of progress.

Only one Farmer in the County

So far the influences of the sea have side-tracked attention to agriculture in all these counties. In Dare there is only one farmer; that is to say only one man, so they told us the other day, that derives his living from the farm alone. The 1910 census reports only 136 farmers and fewer than 1,500 of the 240,000 acres of land under cultivation. These people make their living by fishing; they farm a little as a side issue. They raise corn, potatoes, peas, collards and turnips, and a few figs and strawberries—less than \$9 worth of farm and garden crops per inhabitant in the census year; and less than a dollar's worth of pork, beef, mutton, poultry, eggs and butter.

Seventy-four dollar's worth of food per inhabitant must be taken from the sea or imported from abroad. On the wharf at Elizabeth City we found twenty-pound boxes of boneless fish from Gloucester, Mass., addressed to a point in Dare. It beats shipping coal to Newcastle.